

Southern Heritage

Newsletter of 32nd Virginia, Co H. (Warwick Beauregards)
Volume 12, Number 4 – September 29, 2005

A Letter from the Captain

Attention Company!

At Ease!



Hello everyone. I know it seems you just got a newsletter just a couple weeks ago, but we have a lot to talk about. I guess by now

you all have heard the news about all the changes coming for the next year. At the last event, the unit voted to move to Isle of Wight County. We went and met the county council and discussed the possibility of us moving to Isle of Wight County. They were delighted. A key question asked was about the history of the 32nd and if the 32nd was related to their county. We told them the brief history of the 32nd. We told them we were willing to change our name to fit the unit that was from Isle of Wight County, the 16th Virginia, Company D, if it would please the council. So that is where that idea came from, if you were wondering. We have been receiving 100% support from the other units that work with us and support us at Endview. They said where we go, they go! I think John Quarstein will be in for a shock. No matter what the newspapers say, we are not the "bad guys". The remark was made that they (Endview, developer, city, etc.) bent over backward for us. If that were the case, why would we leave? We have a hell of a lot more money and time invested out there than they do! I hope I have the company's 100% support

with the name change. The county historical society and the county board of supervisors are excited that we are coming over. The name change will spice it up even more. We will complete our commitments to Endview as true southern gentlemen. Now, on another note. At Cedar Creek we will be having company nominations and elections, as well as for the Battalion. For those who do not know, Tommy Mullen is not running for Col. Also, on another, note Sgt. Maj. Tony Powell just recently had a heart attack. He is doing well. Keep him in your prayers and thoughts. Also, I received two e-mails; one from Teri Toepke (Hampton History Museum) and the other from Jon Gates wishing us the best with our move. It's nice to know we have support out there. Now on to the last event. Chesapeake Civil War Days! We had a great time. The food, the fun! I am looking forward next year. I received a letter from the library today thanking us for supporting them. On a scale of 1-10 I give it a 7. Well, I will close for now. I look forward to seeing you all at Cedar Creek. I plan on being there around noon. Just a reminder, please do not dig fire pits on the site. Fires must be on top of the ground because it is a real battlefield. These new changes have got me pumped! Remember, some time change is good. We sit still too long and we will get stagnant like an old pond. We need to keep moving like the ocean. I'm not saying it will be easy, but with your help and support we will succeed!

I remain your obedient servant,
sirs!

Capt. B. R. Smith

SCHEDULE 2005

Note: Dates may be subject to change

October - 15th and 16th - Cedar Creek

October - 21st and 22nd - Ghost walk

November - 5th and 6th - company event at Oak Grove sponsored by Peninsula Artillery

December - 10th and 11th - Christmas in the Field

E-mail from Teri

From: [Toepke, Teri](mailto:Teri)
To: 'REBCAPT32NDVA@peoplepc.com'
Sent: Friday, September 23, 2005 1:28 PM
Subject: Endview

Dear Billy,

Missy Doughty just informed me of the 32nd's decision about Endview. As I told her, I commend you in your decision. You guys were basically taken advantage of when they needed you and pushed aside when they didn't. It's about time that somebody paid for treating you that way. I know it must have been a painful decision for the unit, but in the long run, I think it is the best one that you could have made.

Also know that I still miss you guys and think about you often. You were like family and I think I miss working with all of you more than anything else about Endview. God bless you and best wishes in your new home. Please say hello to everyone from me the next time you see the company.

With fond wishes,
Teri Toepke
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Daily Press Article

Old war stagers mull new stage

Despite efforts to accommodate re-enactors around Endview Plantation, the 32nd Virginia Infantry Regiment is thinking about moving.

BY VERONICA GORLEY
247-4741

September 26, 2005

ISLE OF WIGHT -- Re-enactors based at Endview Plantation want to stage historic battles, not battle development. Plans for houses, condos and apartments around Endview are making members of the 32nd Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company H, think about changing camps. Their sights are set on Isle of Wight County and its tracts of vast, undeveloped land. "So much development is going on over there, it's hard to do these programs anymore," Billy Smith, the unit's captain, recently told the Isle of Wight County Board of Supervisors. But the possibility of the re-enactors' departure surprised John Quarstein, Newport News historian and director of the Virginia War Museum. "We have made extensive steps in working with the developer to accommodate their needs. Whatever they wanted, the developer has done," Quarstein said. "They have not talked to me about (leaving)." The group of about 40 re-enactors plans to vote on the possible move in October. Earlier this month, Newport News City Council approved plans submitted by L.M. Sandler & Sons Inc., a Virginia Beach developer selected 17 months ago to build upscale houses, condos and apartments. The development will encompass nearly 400 acres surrounding two historic, city-owned buildings - Endview Plantation and Lee Hall. Timothy

Downey, the company's quartermaster, said the re-enactors have weathered proposals for a mall and then for an equestrian center at the site. Now, they aren't pleased with what the developers have planned for Endview. "We felt like the writing was on the wall," Downey said. "We knew we had to find another place, and Isle of Wight was our first choice." Quarstein said the plans were modified but what hadn't changed was about 90 acres of green space for re-enactors - about the same amount of space they have now. He said the 32nd Virginia started at Endview years ago to perform re-enactments there. "Endview has a very rich fabric of Civil War history that we have taken great pains and steps to preserve, so if they want to re-enact at a true Civil War site, Endview is the place in Hampton Roads," Quarstein said. "I was somewhat dumbfounded," he continued. "I can only hope that the 32nd Virginia will participate in some of our programs because we have developed together some very positive events that created a meaningful interpretation of the American Civil War, and that's what it's all about." Quarstein said the possible move won't mean the end of re-enactments at Endview. In fact, more than 100 Revolutionary War re-enactors were expected for an event this weekend, he said. Plus, he hopes to raise a new 32nd Virginia group. "This is just one unit leaving," Quarstein said. "This is not the end of the world. It's just disappointing because we have formed a long-standing relationship." If the group moves, it would become the 16th Virginia Infantry, Company D, the Isle of Wight Rifle Grays. Downey, who lives in Isle of Wight County, said one of

his great-grandfathers was Mills Barrett, the regimental chaplain for the 16th Regiment. The group will honor its Endview commitments - an October ghost walk, Christmas in the Field and a March re-enactment - through the spring. Isle of Wight already has a re-enactment group - the 1781 Isle of Wight County Militia, which represents the American Revolution - but the possible move wouldn't be seen as an invasion, militia representatives said. "I do not wish to see Endview lose them. ... They do great things there with the Civil War and Revolutionary War re-enactments," said Rob Friar, the militia's director. "However, if they do decide to leave, I think this is a great development. Whatever is decided upon as a site for them will also become a site that could serve as a venue for Revolutionary War events." One of the sites the 32nd Virginia has in mind is the 262-acre Isle of Wight County Heritage Park near Windsor. Space limited the size of re-enactments at Endview, but that wouldn't be a problem at Heritage Park, Downey said. "In the next several years, it could be a national event," Downey said.